

s/n 10/527,611  
198-0002USRECEIVED  
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REMARKS

The Office Action rejected claims 23 and 24 under §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,509,487 to Dufty et al. The Office Action contends that the drill chuck in the coring apparatus described in Dufty "allows for rotation of the drill bit when powered by the drive motor and prevents rotation of the drill bit when the motor is not operating."

The Office Action also rejected claims 23 and 24 under §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,918,130 to Thom. The Office Action contends that the drill chuck in the hole forming machine described in Thom "allows for rotation of the drill bit when powered by the drive motor and prevents rotation of the drill bit when the motor is not operating."

Claim 23 has been amended to require that the means for preventing and allowing rotation are within the body of the drill chuck – i.e., not an external apparatus such as the drive motors of Dufty or Thom which may start and stop.

Claims 23 has also been amended to recite that the means for allowing rotation of an engaged drill bit are responsive to insertion of the drill bit into turf, and the means within the body for preventing rotation of the drill bit are responsive to withdrawal from the turf.

Claim 24 has been amended to require means for allowing rotation of an engaged drill bit in response to a compressive force applied to the drill bit and for preventing rotation of the drill bit in response to a tensile force applied to the drill bit.

Neither Dufty nor Thom describes an apparatus that is automatically responsive to insertion or withdrawal of a drill bit.

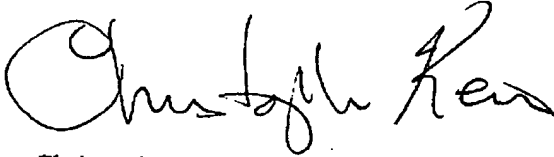
Neither Dufty nor Thom describes an apparatus that is automatically responsive to compressive or tensile forces applied to a drill bit.

It is therefore submitted that claims 23 and 24, as amended, are not anticipated by either Dufty or Thom.

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Reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher D. Keirs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christopher" written in a large, looping script, and the last name "Keirs" in a more compact, stylized script.

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